

INFORMATION PAPER

ON

NIGHT VISION (NVIS) COMPATABLE LIGHTING FOR THE KC-135

1. Background. The need to bring increased situational awareness (SA) to KC-135 aircrews, to enhance the survivability of the aircraft and to meet the needs of receiver aircraft requires modifying the aircraft for night vision operations. Night vision goggles give crewmembers the greatly enhanced ability to see other aircraft in a nighttime blacked out flying environment. By being able to see other aircraft at night, tankers can avoid collisions. Modifying the cockpit, boompod and external lights on the KC-135 will allow for this and for receivers to refuel while wearing night vision goggles. This is important because receivers must now remove goggles to refuel and by doing so, must wait at least 30 minutes for their eyes to readjust to night operations. This takes valuable time away from striking the enemy. Finally, aircrews can approach and depart airfields blacked out, keeping the enemy from tracking them with night vision equipment and firing Manpads or AAA at them.

2. Requirement. HQ AMC madate that all MAF aircraft be modified for NVIS operations. A/OA-10 CAF requirement for NVIS air refueling capability.

3. Impact If Not Funded. Aircraft will be vulnerable to mid air collisions and ground fire. Receivers will not be able to effectively perform their night air refueling missions while over enemy territory.

4. Units Impacted.

101ARW Bangor IAP, ME	134ARW Knoxville APT, TN	168ARW Eielson AFB, AK
107ARW Niagara Falls IAP, NY	141ARW Fairchild AFB, WA	171ARW Pittsburgh IAP, PA
108ARW McGuire AFB, NJ	151ARW Salt Lake IAP, UT	184ARW McConnell AFB, KS
117ARW Birmingham APT, AL	155ARW Lincoln MAP, NE	185ARW Sioux City IAP, IA
121ARW Rickenbacker ANGB, OH	157ARW Pease ANGB, NH	186ARW Thomson FLD , MS
126ARW Scott AFB, IL	161ARW Phoenix IAP, AZ	190ARW Forbes FLD, KS
128ARW Milwaukee IAP, WI	163ARW March AFB, CA	203ARS Hickam AFB, HI

5. Contractor. TBD

6. Cost.

Units Required	Unit Cost	Program Cost*
160	\$250,000	\$40,000,000

*Includes 8% initial spares, TCTO's and installs. (Pricing is ROM)